रीजनल लेंग्युजेज में निर्णय लिया जा सके। यदि रीजनल लेंग्युजेज में निर्णय न देने की परम्परा है, तो आप उसको कब तक प्रारंभ करने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज : महोदया, कंस्टीट्यूशन के आर्टिकल-348 के तहत गवर्नर को यह अधिकार है कि वह राष्ट्रपति महोदय से इस बात पर सलाह करके वहां पर अंग्रेजी के अतिरिक्त किसी भी भाषा में बहस और मुकदमे के जजमेंट देने की अनुमति दे सकते हैं। इसके तहत हिन्दीभाषी राज्यों में बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान और उत्तर प्रदेश में पहले ही इस बात पर निर्णय हो चुका है। दूसरी जगह आपको मालूम है कि वहां कठिनाई है, साऊथ की कठिनाई है, नोर्थ ईस्ट की कठिनाई है। तो जहां-जहां पर अपनी रीजनल लेंग्युजेज को अगर कोर्ट में लागू करना चाहते हैं तो गवर्नर प्रेजीडेंट आफ इंडिया से सलाह करके ऐसा निर्णय ले सकते हैं। इसमें हमारी तरफ से सीधी नीति है कि जब तक वहां की राज्य सरकारें अपने गवर्नर के जरिए राष्ट्रपति जी को रिक्वैस्ट नहीं करती, तो यहां से निर्णय लेना कठिन है, जैसे साउथ का, नोर्थ का और जितनी भी अन्य जगह हैं, वहां का। लेकिन चार राज्य पहले निर्णय ले चुके हैं, जिन के नाम मैंने आपको बताए हैं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Manpower review by D.R.D.O.

*463. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Zero-based manpower review had been initiated and a Committee had been formed by the D.R.D.O. to review the manpower requirements in its various laboratories;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the review as mentioned above; and

(c) what follow up action Government propose to take in the market?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As a first step, Zero-based manpower review of 15 labs/estts has been undertaken recently, which is under progress.

(c) The manpower authorisation of R&D labs/estts is proposed to be revised based on Zero-based manpower review.

Diversification of Jute Products on Account of Bio-degradability of Jute Fibre

*468. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jute fibre is bio-degradable;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the light of the Rio Earth Summit and new environment consciousness, developed and industrialised countries now prefer bio-degradable packages;

(c) if so, whether Government plan to diversify jute products for this new export oriented perspective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The growing environment consciousness is expected to result in preference for usage of biodegradable material for packaging.

(c) and (d) Government have laid special emphasis on reorientation of

R&D activties for development and marketing of diversified jute products to suit consumer preference abroad. A High Powered Committee has been established to sutdy the matter at length with the objective of modernisation, diversification and export promotion of jute products. multi-dimensional activities have been undertaken for promotion of jute exports including participation in international fairs, organising buyers' -sellers' meets, commissioning of market studies, liaising with importers and end-users and conducting publicity campaigns. In addition, exports have been promoted through extension of marketing assistance and linking of DGS&D orders for supply of jute bags with export obligation.

Income criterion for determining poverty line

*469. SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has assessed that a per capita annual income level of Rs. 11060 should now be considered as the criterion for determining poverty line as against Rs. 6400 at 1985 rates; and

(b) if so, how far the present estimation that the percentage of people living below the poverty line has declined from 37 per cent to 25 per cent, is correct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Planning Commission have updated the poverty line of Rs. 6400 per annum per household (in rural areas) at 1984-85 prices to Rs. 11060 per annum per household at 1991-92 prices.

(b) The percentage of people below the poverty line is estimated to have declined from 37.4 per cent of total population in 1983-84 to 29.9 per cent in 1987-88 even after adjusting the poverty line for price rise. The figure of 25.8 per cent was only an expectation of poverty level to be achieved in 1989-90 as mentioned in the Seventh Plan document prepared in 1985.

Time-barred amnesty scheme for firms

*470. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have shelved its plan to announce a time-barred amnesty scheme for firms guilty of violating the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, by when Government would take a decision to announce the plan?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) and (b) In the meeting of the Company Law Advisory Committee held on 18-1-1991,, it was suggested that companies which have not filed balance sheets/annual returns for the last three years be allowed to do so on payment of a compounding fee. The suggestion involved belated filing of documents and condonation of delay as also withdrawal of prosecution cases filed, if any. As per Section 621-A of the Companies Act, 1956, inserted by the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1988, certain offences (not being an offence punishable with imprisonment only) are compoundable by